

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 141749
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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PORC, CSCE

SUBJECT: PRESS SUMMARY, FRIDAY, JUNE 17

1. WP, PAGE 21, (AND OTHER PAPERS) MICHAEL GETLER, BELGRADE, REPORTS ON VORONTSOV'S STATEMENT THAT PREPARATORY MEETING SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE, WITH BUSINESSLIKE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, SUMMARY OF POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND VIEW TOWARD THE FUTURE. GETLER INDICATES SOVIETS ARE ATTEMPTING TO AVOID WESTERN SCRUTINY OF HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES, BUT NOTES US, BACKED BY WESTERN STATES, IS PRESSING FOR OPEN-ENDED DISCUSSION WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THOROUGH REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION. GETLER SEES INTEREST AMONG DELEGATIONS IN SPANISH PROPOSAL. HE QUOTES AMBASSADOR SHERER AS SAYING THE SOVIET OPENING SPEECH WAS "BASICALLY CONSTRUCTIVE", AND THAT MEETING IS GOING PERHAPS "BETTER THAN I EXPECTED."

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2. WP, PAGE 21, CARRIES BRIEF ARTICLE ON COMPLAINTS BY DELEGATIONS ABOUT HIGH PRICE OF ACCOMMODATIONS AT CONGRESS HALL, AND NOTES US AND FRG FOUND OTHER OFFICE SPACE RATHER THAN PAY OUTLANDISH PRICES.

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3. WP, PAGE 1, (AND OTHER PAPERS) PETER OSNOS COMMENTS FROM MOSCOW ABOUT TOTH'S RELEASE AND SUGGESTS SOVIETS MAY USE TOTH'S SIGNED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT SHCHARANSKY COLLECTED MATERIAL FOR HIS STORIES AS EVIDENCE AT POSSIBLE TREASON TRIAL. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, PAGE 26, POINTS TO SOVIET DETENTION OF TOTH AS PART OF THE SOVIET UNION'S DEFENSIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

4. NYT, PAGE 11, JOHN KIFNER REPORTS THAT INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL HAS PASSED EVIDENCE OF US VIOLATIONS OF HELSINKI ACCORDS ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO SOVIETS FOR USE AT BELGRADE. ACCORDING TO KIFNER INFORMATION CONCERNS SUPPRESSION OF INDIAN RELIGIONS, RESTRICTION OF TRADITIONAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL PRACTICES AND IS DESIGNED TO BRING ATTENTION TO INDIAN CLAIMS.

5. NYT, PAGE 27, JAMES RESTON GIVES AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE CSCE AND FINAL ACT PROVISIONS. HE REPORTS THAT OBSERVERS WERE ASTONISHED THAT MEETING HAS NOT DEVELOPED INTO EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION, AND INDICATES DISCUSSION ON PROCEDURES COULD BE COMPLETED IN SIX DAYS, BUT MAY TAKE SIX WEEKS OR SIX MONTHS.

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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